

Docket No.: 5244-0117-2X CONT

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

RE: Application Serial No.: 09/457,669
Applicants: Tetsuro MOTOYAMA
Filing Date: December 9, 1999
For: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR DIAGNOSIS AND
CONTROL OF MACHINES USING CONNECTION
AND CONNECTIONLESS MODES OF
COMMUNICATION
Group Art Unit: 2142
Examiner: PRIETO, BEATRIZ

SIR:

Attached hereto for filing are the following papers:

APPEAL BRIEF (W/ APPENDIXES)

Our credit card payment form in the amount of **\$500.00** is attached covering any required fees. In the event any variance exists between the amount enclosed and the Patent Office charges for filing the above-noted documents, including any fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for any necessary Extension of Time to make the filing of the attached documents timely, please charge or credit the difference to our Deposit Account No. 15-0030. Further, if these papers are not considered timely filed, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for the necessary extension of time. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Kurt M. Berger
James J. Kulbaski

Registration No. 34,648

Kurt M. Berger, Ph.D.

Registration No. 51,461

Customer Number

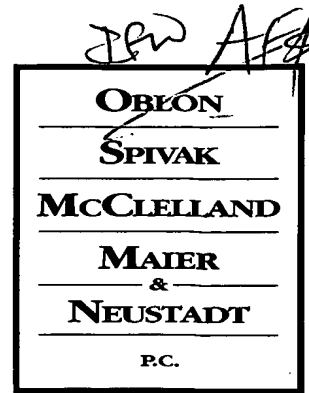
22850

(703) 413-3000 (phone)

(703) 413-2220 (fax)

JJK:KMB:fbl

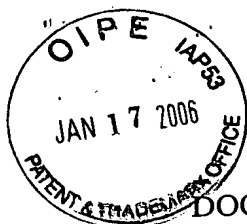
I:\ATTY\KMB\5244\5244-0117\52440117.PTO CVR.DOC



ATTORNEYS AT LAW

JAMES J. KULBASKI
(703) 413-3000
JKULBASKI@OBLON.COM

KURT M. BERGER, Ph.D.
REGISTERED PATENT AGENT
(703) 413-3000
KBERGER@OBLON.COM



DOCKET NO: 5244-0117-2

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :
TETSURO MOTOYAMA : EXAMINER: PRIETO, BEATRIZ
SERIAL NO: 09/457,669 :
FILED: DECEMBER 9, 1999 : GROUP ART UNIT: 2142
FOR: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR :
DIAGNOSIS AND CONTROL OF
MACHINES USING CONNECTION AND
CONNECTIONLESS MODES OF
COMMUNICATION

APPEAL BRIEF

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

Applicants appeal the outstanding Final Rejection of July 26, 2005, finally rejecting each of pending claims 52-62, 68-87, 89-111, and 113-124.

I. REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The above-noted application is assigned to Ricoh Company, Ltd., which is the real party in interest, having a place of business at Tokyo, Japan.

II. RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

Applicant and Applicant's representative are not aware of any related appeals or interferences that will directly effect or be directly affected by or having a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal. However, as discussed in more detail below,

01/19/2006 HALI11 00000024 09457669

500.00 OP

01 FC:1402

Applicants believe that the Board's decision in related Application No. 08/738,659, dated December 23, 2003, has a direct bearing on the merits of this appeal.

III. STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 52-62, 68-87, 89-111, and 113-124 are pending in this application and the rejection of each of claims 52-62, 68-87, 89-111, and 113-124 is being appealed.

Original Claims 1-51 were cancelled without prejudice, and Claims 52-62, 68-87, 89-111, and 113-124 were added during prosecution of this application. Claims 63-67, 88, and 112 were added, but then cancelled during prosecution of this application.

IV. STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

A Pre-Appeal Request for Review was filed subsequent to the Final Rejection dated July 26, 2005. Accordingly, all previously filed Amendments have been considered by the Examiner and are reflected in the attached claims.

V. SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

The applicant of the present invention recognized that a problem exists in the current art in that until the present invention there was not a business office device capable of connecting to a monitoring device that monitors the business office device.

Accordingly, Claim 1 sets forth a business office device configured to connect to a monitoring device that monitors the business office device. Claim 1 is generally supported by Figure 1 (printer 32, digital copier 24, facsimile machine 28), and page 6, line 6 to page 7, line 4 of the specification.

In particular, Claim 1 recites at least one memory, within the business office device, for storing status information of the business office device, which finds support, e.g., in

Figure 3, elements 162 (RAM), 164 (ROM), 178 (Flash Memory), and 182 (disk); and page 13, line 26 to page 14, line 15; and page 8, lines 19-25 of the specification.

Further, Claim 1 recites a communications interface within the business office device, for transmitting, using an Internet e-mail protocol at an application layer, an e-mail containing a first portion of the status information to the monitoring device, wherein the business office device is selected from the group consisting of a printer, a copier, a scanner, a metering system and a multi-function copier, which finds supports, e.g., in Figures 3 and 4 (Multiport Communication Interface 166), Figures 5, 10, and 11; page 13, lines 15-25; page 7, lines 5-12; page 9, lines 4-11; page 18, lines 8-22; page 28, lines 16-24 of the specification.

Independent Claim 76 sets for a business system comprising: a business office device selected from the group consisting of a printer, a copier, a scanner, a metering system and a multi-function copier; and a monitoring device for monitoring the business office device from a remote location, wherein the business office device includes, internal to the business office device, (1) at least one memory for storing status information of the business office device, and (2) a communications interface for transmitting, at an application layer using an Internet e-mail protocol, an e-mail containing a first portion of the status information to the monitoring device. Thus, Claim 76 recites limitations analogous to the limitations recited in independent Claim 52 and is supported in a manner analogous to the support set forth above for Claim 52.

Independent Claim 77 sets forth a method executed internally on a business office device and recites the steps of (1) storing status information on the business office device in at least one memory within the business office device; and (2) transmitting, using an Internet e-mail protocol at an application layer, an e-mail containing a first portion of status information from the business office device to a remotely located monitoring device, wherein the business office device is selected from the group consisting of a printer, a copier, a

scanner, a metering system and a multi-function copier. Thus, Claim 77 recites limitations analogous to the limitations recited in independent Claim 52 and is supported in a manner analogous to the support set forth above for Claim 52.

Independent Claim 101 is directed to a computer program product comprising a computer storage medium and a computer program code mechanism embedded in the computer storage medium for internally monitoring a business office device, the computer program code mechanism comprising: (1) a first computer code configured to store status information on the business office device in at least one memory; and (2) a second computer code device configured to transmit, using an Internet e-mail protocol at an application layer, an e-mail containing a first portion of status information from the business office device to a remotely located monitoring device, wherein the business office device is selected from the group consisting of a printer, a copier, a scanner, a metering system and a multi-function copier. Thus, Claim 101 recites limitations analogous to the limitations recited in independent Claim 52 and is supported in a manner analogous to the support set forth above for Claim 52. In addition, Claim 101 is supported by page 28, line 25 to page 29, line 16 of the specification.

VI. GROUNDS OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL

The grounds of rejection being appealed are as follows:

- (1) whether the teachings of U.S. Patent No. 5,537,626 to Kraslavsky et al. (hereinafter "the '626 patent")¹ anticipates the subject matter of each of Claims 52-54, 57-62, 64, 65, 69, 76, 77, 82-87, 89, 90, 94, and 101² under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b); and

¹ Applicants note that page 2 of the Office Action dated July 26, 2005, refers to the rejection of the claims "as being anticipated by Kraslavsky et al. (U.S. 6,889,263) (Kraslavsky hereafter)." However, U.S. Patent No. 6,889,263 was granted to Motoyama, not Kraslavsky et al. Since the Office Action repeatedly cites to Kraslavsky in the Office Action, Applicants have interpreted the reference to U.S. Patent No. 6,889,263 to be an inadvertent error.

(2) whether the teachings of the '626 patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,184,179 to Tarr et al. (hereinafter "the '179 patent") renders obvious the subject matter of Claims 55, 56, 66-68, 70-75, 78-81, 91-93, 95-100, 104, 105, 115-117, and 119-124 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

VII. ARGUMENT

Claims 52-62, 68-87, 89-111, and 113-124

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 52-54, 57-62, 64, 65, 69, 76, 77, 82-87, 89, 90, 94, and 101 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,537,626 to Kraslavsky et al. (hereinafter "the '626 patent"). As set forth in the Request for Reconsideration filed May 10, 2005, this rejection is clearly deficient based on the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences' appeal decision dated December 23, 2003 ("Board decision") in related Application No. 08/738,659 ("the '659 application"), which is attached in the Evidence Appendix.

In the Board's '659 decision, the Board rejected independent '659 Claim 10 as anticipated by the '626, but did not sustain a rejection of dependent '659 Claim 68, which had been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the '626 patent and U.S. Patent No. 5,740,231 to Cohn. '659 Claim 10 was directed to a method of communicating between a monitored device and a monitoring device and included the step of "transmitting the information through electronic mail from the monitoring device to the monitored device." Dependent '659 Claim 68, which depended from '659 Claim 10, clarified that "the step of transmitting

² Although page 2 of the Office Action dated July 26, 2005, refers to the rejection Claims 78 and 79 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), those claims are not specifically addressed in the text that follows. Moreover, Claims 78 and 79 are listed as being rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) on page 3 of the Office Action, and the rejection is described in more detail on pages 5 and 6 of the Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants have interpreted the rejection of Claims 78 and 79 to be under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

comprises: transmitting the information through an electronic mail message over the Internet from the monitoring device to the monitored device."

As discussed in the Request for Reconsideration filed in the present application on May 10, 2005, the Board's '659 decision states that

[w]e find no disclosure or suggestion in Kraslavsky or Cohn, nor in any combination of the teachings thereof, for transmitting Internet electronic mail messages between machines, for monitoring devices, as claimed by Appellant.... We thus do not sustain the Section 103 rejection of Claims 12-15, 17-19, 38-41, 43, 44, 52-61, 68-73, 75-77, 79-81, 83-85, and 87.³

Further, the Board's '659 decision also stated that "[w]e interpret transmission of the Internet electronic mail message, as claimed, as **requiring more than the electronic message transmission as disclosed by Kraslavsky.**"⁴ In addition, the Board stated that "[h]owever, we agree with Appellant, as developed in the briefs and the declaration, that **the combination of Kraslavsky and Cohn would not have suggested the transmission of Internet electronic communications between a monitored and a...[monitoring] device as claimed.**"⁵ However, taking a broad interpretation of the term "electronic mail," the '659 Board proceeded to enter a new ground of rejection of '659 Claim 10 as anticipated by the '626 patent, but did not sustain the rejection of dependent '659 Claim 68. Subsequent to the Board's decision, '659 Claim 10 was amended to recite "transmitting the information through electronic mail...using an Internet e-mail protocol," and to limit the monitored device to a specified list of devices similar to the list recited in present Claim 52. Based on the amendment to '659 Claim 10, that claim was allowed by the Examiner of the '659 application.

Accordingly, based on the actions of the '659 Board and the subsequent allowance by the '659 Examiner, Applicant amended the claims of the present application to recite

³ '659 Board decision dated December 23, 2005, page 5.

⁴ Id. at page 4. Emphasis added.

⁵ Id. at page 5. Emphasis added.

limitations analogous to the limitations recited in the allowed '659 application. In particular, independent Claim 52 recites a business office device configured to connect to a monitoring device that monitors the business office device, comprising, *inter alia*,

a communications interface within the business office device, for transmitting, using an Internet e-mail protocol at an application layer, an e-mail containing a first portion of the status information to the monitoring device, wherein the business office device is selected from the group consisting of a printer, a copier, a scanner, a metering system and a multi-function copier.

However, despite the fact that Claim 52 recites limitations analogous to the limitations recited claims in the allowed '659 application, and despite the '659 Board's clear statements that the '626 patent fails to teach or suggest the transmission of Internet electronic mail messages between a monitored device and a monitoring device, the Examiner maintains that Claim 52 is anticipated by the '626 patent. In support of her rejection, the Examiner points to the '626 patent's general disclosure of "Netware" compatible print services and communications over TCP/IP.⁶ In essence, the Examiner maintains that because the '626 patent allegedly discloses "network protocol stacks" and a "set of instructions supporting data communication, i.e., application programs, at an application layer," that the '626 patent must disclose transmitting email containing status information using an Internet email protocol from a business office device to a monitoring device.⁷ However, Applicant respectfully submits that the '626 patent does not disclose the communication interface recited in Claim 52. Moreover, Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner's interpretation of the '626 patent is directly conflicting with the Board's prior interpretation of that reference as set forth in its appeal decision in the related '659 application. In particular, the Board clearly states

⁶ See pages 6-8 of the Office Action dated July 26, 2005.

⁷ *Id.*

that the '626 patent does not disclose transmitting Internet electronic messages from a monitored device to a monitoring device.

Accordingly, for the reasons stated above, Applicant respectfully submits that the '626 patent fails to disclose a communications interface within the business office device, for transmitting, using an Internet e-mail protocol at an application layer, an e-mail containing a first portion of the status information to the monitoring device, wherein the business office device is selected from the group consisting of a printer, a copier, a scanner, a metering system and a multi-function copier, as recited in independent Claim 52. Thus, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of Claim 52 (and dependent Claims 53, 54, 57-62, 64, 65, and 69) as anticipated by the '626 patent.

Independent Claims 76, 77, and 101 recite limitations analogous to the limitations recited in Claim 52. Accordingly, for the reasons stated above for the patentability of Claim 52, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of Claims 76, 77, and 101 (and all similarly rejection dependent claims) as anticipated by the '626 patent.

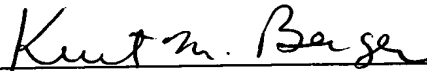
Regarding the rejection of dependent Claims 55, 56, 66-68, 70-75, 78-81, 91-93, 95-100, 104, 105, 115-117, and 119-124 under 35 U.S.C. § 103, Applicant respectfully submits that the '179 patent fails to remedy the deficiencies of the '626 patent, as discussed above. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established and the rejections of the above-listed dependent claims should be withdrawn.

VIII. CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that each of Claims 52-62, 68-87, 89-111, and 113-124 patentably distinguishes over the combination of teachings of the '626 and '179 patents. Therefore, the outstanding rejections must be REVERSED.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



James J. Kulbaski
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 34,648
Kurt M. Berger, Ph.D.
Registration No. 51,461

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413-2220
(OSMMN 08/03)
JJ/KMB:smi

I:\ATTY\KMB\5244\5244-0117\52440117.APEAL.BRIEF.DOC

CLAIMS APPENDIX

52. (Rejected) A business office device configured to connect to a monitoring device that monitors the business office device, the business office device comprising:

at least one memory, within the business office device, for storing status information of the business office device; and

a communications interface, within the business office device, for transmitting, using an Internet e-mail protocol at an application layer, an e-mail containing a first portion of the status information to the monitoring device, wherein the business office device is selected from the group consisting of a printer, a copier, a scanner, a metering system and a multi-function copier.

53. (Rejected) The business office device as claimed in Claim 52, further comprising a direct connection mode-based interface for transmitting to the monitoring device at least one of a second portion of the status information and the first portion of the status information.

54. (Rejected) The business office device as claimed in Claim 53, wherein the at least one memory stores the status information such that both the e-mail interface and the direct connection-mode interface can each transmit at least one of the first and second portions of the status information.

55. (Rejected) The business office device as claimed in Claim 52, wherein the business office device transmits the first portion of the status information to the monitoring device at a predetermined interval.

56. (Rejected) The business office device as claimed in Claim 52, wherein the business office device transmits the first portion of the status information to the monitoring device when an event occurs in the business office device.

57. (Rejected) The business office device as claimed in Claim 52, wherein the at least one memory comprises a semi-static memory for storing an assigned name of the business office device.

58. (Rejected) The business office device as claimed in Claim 57, wherein the assigned name is communicated to the monitoring device.

59. (Rejected) The business office device as claimed in Claim 52, wherein the at least one memory comprises a semi-static memory for storing an assigned address of the business office device.

60. (Rejected) The business office device as claimed in Claim 59, wherein the assigned address is communicated to the monitoring device.

61. (Rejected) The business office device as claimed in Claim 52, wherein the first portion of the status information transmitted by the communications interface is transmitted to the monitoring device based on a request received from the monitoring device.

62. (Rejected) The business office device as claimed in Claim 61, wherein the request is received via e-mail.

63. (Canceled)

64. (Rejected) The business office device as claimed in Claim 52, wherein the at least one memory comprises a semi-static memory for storing an option configuration.

65. (Rejected) The business office device as claimed in Claim 52, wherein the at least one memory comprises a static memory for storing a model number.

66. (Rejected) The business office device as claimed in Claim 52, wherein the at least one memory comprises a static memory for storing a serial number.

67. (Rejected) The business office device as claimed in Claim 52, wherein the at least one memory comprises a static memory for storing characteristics of said business office device which do not change over a life of said business office device.

68. (Rejected) The business office device as claimed in Claim 52, wherein the at least one memory comprises a dynamic memory for storing dynamic data.

69. (Rejected) The business office device as claimed in Claim 52, wherein the at least one memory comprises a dynamic memory for storing an indication of a paper tray present in the business office device.

70. (Rejected) The business office device as claimed in Claim 52, wherein the at least one memory comprises a dynamic memory for storing an indication of a voltage used in the business office device.

71. (Rejected) The business office device as claimed in Claim 52, wherein the at least one memory comprises a dynamic memory for storing an indication of a status of paper in a paper tray present in the business office device.

72. (Rejected) The business office device as claimed in Claim 52, wherein the at least one memory comprises a dynamic memory for storing an indication of an amount of oil in the business office device.

73. (Rejected) The business office device as claimed in Claim 52, wherein the at least one memory comprises a dynamic memory for storing an indication of an amount of toner in the business office device.

74. (Rejected) The business office device as claimed in Claim 52, wherein the at least one memory comprises a dynamic memory for storing an indication of a sensitivity of a photo-receptor in the business office device.

75. (Rejected) The business office device as claimed in Claim 52, wherein the at least one memory comprises a dynamic memory for storing an indication of a number of prints made by the business office device.

76. (Rejected) A business system comprising:
a business office device selected from the group consisting of a printer, a copier, a scanner, a metering system and a multi-function copier; and
a monitoring device for monitoring the business office device from a remote location, wherein the business office device includes, internal to the business office device, (1) at least

one memory for storing status information of the business office device, and (2) a communications interface for transmitting, at an application layer using an Internet e-mail protocol, an e-mail containing a first portion of the status information to the monitoring device.

77. (Rejected) A monitoring method executed internally to a business office device, the method comprising:

storing status information of the business office device in at least one memory within the business office device; and

transmitting, using an Internet e-mail protocol at an application layer, an e-mail containing a first portion of the status information from the business office device to a remotely located monitoring device, wherein the business office device is selected from the group consisting of a printer, a copier, a scanner, a metering system and a multi-function copier.

78. (Rejected) The monitoring method as claimed in Claim 77, further comprising:
establishing a direct connection to the monitoring device; and
transmitting, across the direct connection, at least one of a second portion of the status information and the first portion of the status information.

79. (Rejected) The monitoring method as claimed in Claim 78, wherein the step of storing comprises storing the status information in a common memory such that both the first and second portions of the status information are read from the common memory.

80. (Rejected) The monitoring method as claimed in Claim 77, wherein the step of transmitting comprises transmitting the first portion of the status information to the monitoring device at a predetermined interval.

81. (Rejected) The monitoring method as claimed in Claim 77, wherein the step of transmitting comprises transmitting the first portion of the status information to the monitoring device when an event occurs in the business office device.

82. (Rejected) The monitoring method as claimed in Claim 77, wherein the at least one memory comprises a semi-static memory for storing an assigned name of the business office device.

83. (Rejected) The monitoring method as claimed in Claim 82, further comprising the step of communicating the assigned name to the monitoring device.

84. (Rejected) The monitoring method as claimed in Claim 77, wherein the at least one memory comprises a semi-static memory for storing an assigned address of the business office device.

85. (Rejected) The monitoring method as claimed in Claim 84, further comprising the step of communicating the assigned address to the monitoring device.

86. (Rejected) The monitoring method as claimed in Claim 77, further comprising the step of receiving a request from the monitoring device to cause the first portion of the status information to be transmitted to the monitoring device.

87. (Rejected) The monitoring method as claimed in Claim 86, wherein the step of receiving comprises receiving the request via e-mail.

88. (Canceled)

89. (Rejected) The monitoring method as claimed in Claim 77, wherein the at least one memory comprises a semi-static memory for storing an option configuration.

90. (Rejected) The monitoring method as claimed in Claim 77, wherein the at least one memory comprises a static memory for storing a model number.

91. (Rejected) The monitoring method as claimed in Claim 77, wherein the at least one memory comprises a static memory for storing a serial number.

92. (Rejected) The monitoring method as claimed in Claim 77, wherein the at least one memory comprises a static memory for storing characteristics of said business office device which do not change over a life of said business office device.

93. (Rejected) The monitoring method as claimed in Claim 77, wherein the at least one memory comprises a dynamic memory for storing dynamic data.

94. (Rejected) The monitoring method as claimed in Claim 77, wherein the at least one memory comprises a dynamic memory for storing an indication of a paper tray present in the business office device.

95. (Rejected) The monitoring method as claimed in Claim 77, wherein the at least one memory comprises a dynamic memory for storing an indication of a voltage used in the business office device.

96. (Rejected) The monitoring method as claimed in Claim 77, wherein the at least one memory comprises a dynamic memory for storing an indication of a status of paper in a paper tray present in the business office device.

97. (Rejected) The monitoring method as claimed in Claim 77, wherein the at least one memory comprises a dynamic memory for storing an indication of an amount of oil in the business office device.

98. (Rejected) The monitoring method as claimed in Claim 77, wherein the at least one memory comprises a dynamic memory for storing an indication of an amount of toner in the business office device.

99. (Rejected) The monitoring method as claimed in Claim 77, wherein the at least one memory comprises a dynamic memory for storing an indication of a sensitivity of a photo-receptor in the business office device.

100. (Rejected) The monitoring method as claimed in Claim 77, wherein the at least one memory comprises a dynamic memory for storing an indication of a number of prints made by the business office device.

101. (Rejected) A computer program product, comprising:

a computer storage medium and a computer program code mechanism embedded in the computer storage medium for internally monitoring a business office device, the computer program code mechanism comprising:

a first computer code configured to store status information of the business office device in at least one memory; and

a second computer code configured to transmit, using an Internet e-mail protocol at an application layer, an e-mail containing a first portion of the status information from the business office device to a remotely located monitoring device, wherein the business office device is selected from the group consisting of a printer, a copier, a scanner, a metering system and a multi-function copier.

102. (Rejected) The computer program product as claimed in Claim 101, further comprising:

a third computer code device configured to establish a direct connection to the monitoring device; and

a fourth computer code device configured to transmit, across the direct connection, at least one of a second portion of the status information and the first portion of the status information.

103. (Rejected) The computer program product as claimed in Claim 102, wherein the first computer code device comprises a third computer code device configured to store the status information in a common memory such that both the first and second portions of the status information are read from the common memory.

104. (Rejected) The computer program product as claimed in Claim 101, wherein the second computer code device comprises a third computer code device configured to transmit the first portion of the status information to the monitoring device at a predetermined interval.

105. (Rejected) The computer program product as claimed in Claim 101, wherein the second computer code device comprises a third computer code device configured to transmit the first portion of the status information to the monitoring device when an event occurs in the business office device.

106. (Rejected) The computer program product as claimed in Claim 101, wherein the at least one memory comprises a semi-static memory for storing an assigned name of the business office device.

107. (Rejected) The computer program product as claimed in Claim 106, further comprising a third computer code device configured to communicate the assigned name to the monitoring device.

108. (Rejected) The computer program product as claimed in Claim 101, wherein the at least one memory comprises a semi-static memory for storing an assigned address of the business office device.

109. (Rejected) The computer program product as claimed in Claim 108, further comprising a third computer code device configured to communicate the assigned address to the monitoring device.

110. (Rejected) The computer program product as claimed in Claim 101, further comprising a third computer code device configured to receive a request from the monitoring device to cause the first portion of the status information to be transmitted to the monitoring device.

111. (Rejected) The computer program product as claimed in Claim 110, wherein the third computer code device receives the request via e-mail.

112. (Canceled)

113. (Rejected) The computer program product as claimed in Claim 101, wherein the at least one memory comprises a semi-static memory for storing an option configuration.

114. (Rejected) The computer program product as claimed in Claim 101, wherein the at least one memory comprises a static memory for storing a model number.

115. (Rejected) The computer program product as claimed in Claim 101, wherein the at least one memory comprises a static memory for storing a serial number.

116. (Rejected) The computer program product as claimed in Claim 101, wherein the at least one memory comprises a static memory for storing characteristics of said business office device which do not change over a life of said business office device.

117. (Rejected) The computer program product as claimed in Claim 101, wherein the at least one memory comprises a dynamic memory for storing dynamic data.

118. (Rejected) The computer program product as claimed in Claim 101, wherein the at least one memory comprises a dynamic memory for storing an indication of a paper tray present in the business office device.

119. (Rejected) The computer program product as claimed in Claim 101, wherein the at least one memory comprises a dynamic memory for storing an indication of a voltage used in the business office device.

120. (Rejected) The computer program product as claimed in Claim 101, wherein the at least one memory comprises a dynamic memory for storing an indication of a status of paper in a paper tray present in the business office device.

121. (Rejected) The computer program product as claimed in Claim 101, wherein the at least one memory comprises a dynamic memory for storing an indication of an amount of oil in the business office device.

122. (Rejected) The computer program product as claimed in Claim 101, wherein the at least one memory comprises a dynamic memory for storing an indication of an amount of toner in the business office device.

123. (Rejected) The computer program product as claimed in Claim 101, wherein the at least one memory comprises a dynamic memory for storing an indication of a sensitivity of a photo-receptor in the business office device.

124. (Rejected) The computer program product as claimed in Claim 101, wherein the at least one memory comprises a dynamic memory for storing an indication of a number of prints made by the business office device.

Application No. 09/457,669
Reply to Final Rejection of July 26, 2005.

RELATED PROCEEDING APPENDIX

None

Application No. 09/457,669
Reply to Final Rejection of July 26, 2005.

EVIDENCE APPENDIX

BPAI decision dated December 23, 2003, in Appeal No. 2002-0867 for related U.S.
Application No. 08/738,659, which is attached.



EVIDENCE APPENDIX

The opinion in support of the decision being entered today was not written for publication and is not binding precedent of the Board.

Paper No. 57

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES

MAILED

DEC 23 2003

**PAT. & T.M. OFFICE
BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES**

Ex parte TETSURO MOTOYAMA

Appeal No. 2002-0867
Application No. 08/738,659

HEARD: October 21, 2003

Before BARRETT, LEVY, and BLANKENSHIP, Administrative Patent Judges.
BLANKENSHIP, Administrative Patent Judge.

DECISION ON APPEAL

This is a decision on appeal under 35 U.S.C. § 134 from the examiner's rejection of claims 10, 12-19, 36, 38-44, 52-61, and 68-87, which are all the claims remaining in the application.

We affirm-in-part, and enter a new ground of rejection in accordance with 37 CFR § 1.196(b).

BACKGROUND

The invention is directed to a method and system for communications, using electronic mail, between a monitoring device and a device monitored by the monitoring device. Claim 10 is reproduced below.

10. A method for communicating between a monitored device and a monitoring device, comprising the steps of:

determining information to be transmitted by the monitoring device to the monitored device, the information including a request for a status of the monitored device determined using sensors within the monitored device; and

transmitting the information through electronic mail from the monitoring device to the monitored device.

The examiner relies on the following references:

Banno et al. (Banno)	4,876,606	Oct. 24, 1989
Kraslavsky et al. (Kraslavsky)	5,537,626	Jul. 16, 1996 (filed Feb. 13, 1995)
Cohn et al. (Cohn)	5,740,231	Apr. 14, 1998 (filed Sep. 16, 1994)

Claims 10, 12-19, 36, 38-44, 52-61, and 68-87 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C.

§ 103 as being unpatentable over Kraslavsky and Cohn.¹

We refer to the Rejection (Paper No. 41; mailed Jul. 30, 2001) and the Examiner's Answer (Paper No. 47; mailed Nov. 19, 2001) for a statement of the

¹ Banno, relied upon as showing an inherent feature of Kraslavsky, should have been included in the initial statement of the rejection as to the relevant claims. See In re Hoch, 428 F.2d 1341, 1342 n.3, 166 USPQ 406, 407 n.3 (CCPA 1970) ("Where a reference is relied on to support a rejection, whether or not in a 'minor capacity,' there would appear to be no excuse for not positively including the reference in the statement of rejection.").

Appeal No. 2002-0867
Application No. 08/738,659

examiner's position and to the Brief (Paper No. 45; filed Aug. 29, 2001) and the Reply Brief (Paper No. 48; filed Jan. 14, 2002) for appellant's position with respect to the claims which stand rejected.²

OPINION

Section 103 rejection of claims 10, 12-19, 36, 38-44, 52-61, and 68-87 over Kraslavsky and Cohn

The statement of the rejection of claims 10, 12-19, 36, 38-44, 52-61, and 68-87 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Kraslavsky and Cohn is set forth in the Answer. Since Kraslavsky is deemed to not explicitly teach that messages are transmitted as Internet electronic mail messages, the rejection adds Cohn to show suggestion to use an Internet electronic mail message format. (Answer at 5.)

A. Claims 10, 16, 36, 42, 74, 78, 82, and 86

Instant claims 10, 16, 36, 42, 74, 78, 82, and 86 do not require transmission of Internet messages, nor sending messages in an Internet format. We enter new

² The file contains a paper styled as a "Final Rejection," purportedly "Paper No. 46," which further purports to be in response to appellant's paper filed August 29, 2001 (i.e., the Brief). The final page of said Paper No. 46 contains a printed date of December 30, 2001. However, the paper is not stamped with a mailing date; it is thus unclear whether a copy of the paper was mailed to appellant. Moreover, the paper does not appear to withdraw the earlier rejection and reopen prosecution. Further, another "Paper No. 46," mailed November 19, 2001, documents consideration of an Information Disclosure Statement submitted by appellant. In any event, the appeal is from the rejection mailed July 30, 2001. We have jurisdiction because the claims have been twice rejected as of the date of the rejection under appeal.

Appeal No. 2002-0867
Application No. 08/738,659

grounds of rejection against these claims, infra. Since Kraslavsky discloses all that is required by the claims, we will sustain the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

B. Claims 12-15, 17-19, 38-41, 43, 44, 52-61, 68-73, 75-77, 79-81, 83-85,

and 87

The remainder of the claims require, as set forth in broadest claims 54, 68, 69, 70, and 71 of the group, transmitting an Internet electronic mail message over the Internet, or outside of a local network. We interpret transmission of the Internet electronic mail message, as claimed, as requiring more than the electronic message transmission as disclosed by Kraslavsky. We note, in particular, appellant's description of Internet mail communications at page 7 of the specification.

In response to the section 103 rejection over Kraslavsky and Cohn, appellant argues, inter alia, that at the time of invention email (or Internet electronic mail transmission, as required by the instant group of claims), was considered to lack interactivity and rapid communication features. Appellant relies on an expert's declaration (submitted May 11, 2001) as support for the view. Appellant posits that, as a consequence, the artisan would not have thought to modify the Kraslavsky system. (Brief at 8-9.)

_____ We are substantially in agreement with the examiner's position (e.g., Answer at 11-12). Neither the briefs nor the declaration point to any express support for the

Appeal No. 2002-0867
Application No. 08/738,659

position in the references. Neither the briefs nor the declaration rely on any other factual support tending to substantiate appellant's position.

However, we agree with appellant, as developed in the briefs and the declaration, that the combination of Kraslavsky and Cohn would not have suggested transmission of Internet electronic communications between a monitored and a monitored device as claimed. We disagree with appellant to the extent that appellant may hold that neither reference discloses use of the Internet (e.g. declaration at 10). Cohn teaches a message format having an "Internet style address" (col. 15, l. 65 - col. 16, l. 36) that facilitates communications with messaging systems such as Internet service providers (col. 15, ll. 21-32).

However, as pointed out at page 6, paragraph 11 of the declaration, all of the messages contemplated by Cohn originate from a human and are intended for a human recipient. Kraslavsky deals with device status monitoring on a LAN or on one or more LANs in a wide-area network (WAN), as described at column 7, line 38 et seq. of the reference. We find no disclosure or suggestion in Kraslavsky or Cohn, nor in any combination of teachings thereof, for transmitting Internet electronic mail messages between machines, for monitoring devices, as claimed by appellant. The Banno reference, applied by the examiner to show an asserted inherent feature of Kraslavsky, fails to remedy the deficiency of Kraslavsky and Cohn.

~~We thus do not sustain the Section 103 rejection of claims 12-15, 17-19, 38-41,~~
43, 44, 52-61, 68-73, 75-77, 79-81, 83-85, and 87.

Appeal No. 2002-0867
Application No. 08/738,659

New Ground of Rejection -- 37 CFR § 1.196(b)

We enter the following new ground of rejection against the claims in accordance with 37 CFR § 1.196(b): Claims 10, 16, 36, 42, 74, 78, 82, and 86 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)(2) as being anticipated by Kraslavsky.

Independent claims 10, 16, 36, and 42 recite transmitting information through "electronic mail." The instant specification does not set forth any particular definition for the term. We are thus faced with the problem of determining the metes and bounds of the recitation; a problem that we addressed in a decision in an earlier appeal in a related application. In particular, in that application (S.N. 08/738,461; Appeal No. 1999-2767), we determined that the term is broad in scope. We reproduce below the pertinent section from the earlier decision, which applied the claimed "electronic mail message" to the Kraslavsky reference.

A section 103 analysis begins with a key legal question -- what is the invention claimed? Panduit Corp. v. Dennison Mfg. Co., 810 F.2d 1561, 1567, 1 USPQ2d 1593, 1597 (Fed. Cir. 1987). At the oral hearing, appellant's counsel confirmed that Kraslavsky discloses a process that meets all requirements of instant claim 88, with one exception argued by appellant -- although the reference discloses receiving and analyzing electronic messages, the messages are not deemed to be electronic "mail" messages. Determining the metes and bounds of the recitation "electronic mail message" is thus a material inquiry in proper interpretation of claim 88.

Counsel for appellant conceded that the instant specification does not provide a definition for the relevant term. However, counsel submitted that the term is well-known in the art, and that a formal definition may be found by reference to technical dictionaries.

The McGraw-Hill Dictionary of Scientific and Technical Terms, (5th ed. 1994), at page 663, defines electronic mail as "[t]he electronic transmission of letters, messages, and memos through a communications

network." The New IEEE Standard Dictionary of Electrical and Electronics Terms (5th ed. 1993), at page 426, defines electronic mail as "[t]he generation, transmission, and display of correspondence and documents by electronic means." The Microsoft Press Computer Dictionary (2nd ed. 1994), at page 143, defines electronic mail as "[t]he transmission of messages over a communications network." [Footnote omitted.] The Microsoft Press dictionary entry for the relevant term goes on to describe ways in which electronic mail may be used, but does not restrict "electronic mail" to any particular format or protocol, nor to any particular communications network equipment.

We acknowledge that there may be other definitions in other technical dictionaries suggesting a narrower meaning for "electronic mail" than those definitions we have noted. However, that narrower definitions might be found is immaterial in the present inquiry. Claims are to be given their broadest reasonable interpretation during prosecution. See In re Morris, 127 F.3d 1048, 1054, 44 USPQ2d 1023, 1027 (Fed. Cir. 1997); In re Zletz, 893 F.2d 319, 321, 13 USPQ2d 1320, 1322 (Fed. Cir. 1989); In re Prater, 415 F.2d 1393, 1404-05, 162 USPQ 541, 550-51 (CCPA 1969). "An essential purpose of patent examination is to fashion claims that are precise, clear, correct, and unambiguous. Only in this way can uncertainties of claim scope be removed, as much as possible, during the administrative process." Zletz, 893 F.2d at 321, 13 USPQ2d at 1322.

In view of the above-noted technical dictionary definitions, we fail to see how the broadest reasonable interpretation of "electronic mail message" as presented in instant claim 88 precludes the electronic communication of files over the local area network (LAN) disclosed by Kraslavsky.

Appellant's specification (at 9-10) provides a formal definition of "connectionless-mode transmission," and suggests that Internet electronic mail systems may provide a means for connectionless-mode of communication (at 18). However, the artisan knew that communication across a LAN as disclosed by Kraslavsky is also a form of connectionless-mode transmission. At the hardware level, each EtherNet board on the LAN has a unique Media Access Control (MAC) address. Col. 9, ll. 25-34. Data are transferred in frame packets comprised of the destination address, the source address, and a data section. Col. 28, ll. 23-35; Fig. 9. There is no direct connection between a source and destination of data transferred on the network.

In Kraslavsky, by means of PC 14 the network administrator may perform extensive monitoring of printer 4. Col. 6, l. 45 - col. 7, l. 19. However, Kraslavsky discloses that any PC on the network (Figure 1) may

request the status -- i.e., monitor -- and utilize the services of printer 4 via the network and the network expansion board (NEB) 2 within printer 4. Further, printer 4 analyzes a received print job and prints the received data accordingly. Col. 8, l. 24 - col. 9, l. 4.

We find that printer 4 receiving, analyzing, and printing a text document from a PC on the network meets all the requirements of instant claim 88.

At the oral hearing, counsel for appellant also offered an informal definition of "electronic mail message," along the lines that such a message requires a subject line and is intended as communication between human beings. However, the technical dictionary definitions of the relevant term do not require so narrow an interpretation. Moreover, as disclosed and claimed, the "electronic mail message" is intended for machine processing -- counsel emphasized that when read in light of the specification, claim 88 requires that a machine, rather than a human being, analyze the electronic mail message. The requirements of claim 88 are thus contrary to an informal or functional definition of "electronic mail message" that requires that the message be intended for, or readable by, human beings.³

Since we find all requirements of claim 88 met within the four corners of the Kraslavsky reference, we consider Cohn to be merely cumulative in the section 103 rejection. We also refer to the Kraslavsky reference alone for the requirements that the electronic mail message is received through a LAN (claim 108/88) and without using a telephone line (claim 109/108/88). We thus find the subject matter of all representative claims to be anticipated by Kraslavsky.

We sustain the rejection of claims 88-139 under 35 U.S.C. § 103. A finding of anticipation means that the claims are also obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103; anticipation is the epitome of obviousness. See, e.g., Connell v. Sears, Roebuck & Co., 722 F.2d 1542, 1548, 220 USPQ 193,

³ Although not shown in the prior art before us, counsel was also asked what language in claim 88 might be thought to distinguish over a computer workstation causing an icon (e.g., an envelope icon) to appear on the computer display screen to notify one that an e-mail (intended for a human being) has been received. Counsel argued that a computer display screen (e.g., a CRT) would not be considered a "business office device," referring to the paragraph bridging pages 14 and 15 of the specification. However: (1) appellant's list of "business office machines" is clearly illustrative, rather than exhaustive; and (2) a computer display screen is not a "general purpose computer." Moreover, it is far from apparent why a printer can be considered a "business office device" but a computer display screen cannot. Business-related text or graphics is often viewed on a display before printing.

198 (Fed. Cir. 1983); In re Fracalossi, 681 F.2d 792, 794, 215 USPQ 569, 571 (CCPA 1982); In re Pearson, 494 F.2d 1399, 1402, 181 USPQ 641, 644 (CCPA 1974).

Evidence of secondary considerations such as "long-felt but unresolved need" is irrelevant when the invention lacks novelty. See, e.g., In re Malagari, 499 F.2d 1297, 1302, 182 USPQ 549, 553 (CCPA 1974) (citing In re Wiggins, 488 F.2d 538, 179 USPQ 421 (CCPA 1973)). Moreover, evidence submitted to show nonobviousness is not relevant or material when an invention is anticipated. We thus will not consider or further address appellant's reliance (e.g., Brief at 5) on declarations submitted to show nonobviousness of the invention.

In the instant case, claim 10 recites a method for communicating between a monitored device and a monitoring device, comprising determining information to be transmitted by the monitoring device to the monitored device, the information including a request for status of the monitored device determined using sensors within the monitored device.

Kraslavsky discloses a printer 4 (Fig. 1) on a local area network (LAN) 6. The printer includes a network expansion board (NEB) interfacing the printer to the LAN. The network may use network software, such as Unix software, to effect communication over the various network members. Col. 4, ll. 1-58. With use of the NEB, "verbose amounts" of status information may be provided from the printer 4 to the LAN, including more than the simple "out of paper" and "off line" status messages that prior systems allowed. Col. 6, ll. 18-62.

Software on the network administrator's PC 14 allows request of status information from the printer. Col. 14, ll. 27-48. Software at the remote printer outputs

the device status information in response. Col. 18, ll. 34-59. The communications may use TCP/IP protocol, if the LAN is running a Unix operating system. Col. 18, l. 60 - col. 19, l. 4. As shown in Figure 5C, the network administrator may request detailed status information from the printer (or other peripheral device on the network, if equipped with an NEB), the status information being transmitted from the printer through the LAN to the administrator's PC 14. Col. 20, l. 49 - col. 21, l. 15.

Kraslavsky thus discloses a monitoring device (PC 14) which determines information to be transmitted to a monitored device (printer 4), the information including a request for status of the printer determined using sensors within the printer, such as sensors that ascertain if the printer is off-line or out of paper.

Claim 10 further requires that the information from the monitoring device to the monitored device (e.g., the request for status) be transmitted through "electronic mail." In view of the broadest reasonable interpretation of "electronic mail," as we discussed in the above-noted prior decision -- "electronic mail" requires "the transmission of messages over a communications network" -- we find no difference between the relevant claim 10 requirement and the transmission of the PC 14 message to printer 4, over the LAN 6 using TCP/IP protocol within a Unix operating system, as disclosed by Kraslavsky.

Instant claim 74, depending from claim 10, requires that the transmitting step comprises transmitting the electronic mail message "without using a telephone line."

Appeal No. 2002-0867
Application No. 08/738,659

Kraslavsky, disclosing transmission of the message over a LAN, is squarely within the terms of the negative limitation of claim 74.

We have addressed the substantive limitations of independent claim 10 and dependent claim 74. The remainder of the claims (16, 36, 42, 78, 82, and 86) are also anticipated, reciting limitations similar in scope to claims 10 and 74.

Declaration submitted at oral hearing

In anticipation that we might enter new grounds of rejection over Kraslavsky, based on a broader interpretation of "electronic mail," as we did in the earlier appeal, appellant's representative presented copies of an expert's declaration (37 CFR § 1.132) at the oral hearing.⁴ The declarant states therein (§ 9) that "[i]t is my understanding that the meaning of electronic mail may be at issue."

The declarant sets forth the opinion (§ 12) that the artisan would have considered, at the time of invention, the basic features of electronic mail to be that (1) electronic mail is used to send messages between electronic devices, (2) electronic mail is sent through or received from an electronic mail box or e-mail account, and (3) electronic mail is sent through or received from a host computer, sometimes referred to as a "mail server."

⁴ A copy of the declaration has been entered in the instant file wrapper as Paper No. 56.

As factual support for the opinion, the declaration provides, and references, a portion (six pages) of a text published in 1995. As set forth on the second page of the provided copies, the text, "At ease with e-mail: A handbook on using electronic mail for NGOs in developing countries," prepared by the United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation (New York Office), is "for beginners." Our review of the reference confirms that the text is directed to end users of electronic communications systems, rather than to designers of the systems. The reference thus has little relevance in showing the artisan's understanding of the relevant term.

We acknowledge that the most common conception of electronic mail may have required the three features set forth in the declaration, even with respect to one skilled in the art. The most common definition of "electronic mail" is not at issue. Rather, the inquiry is with respect to the metes and bounds of the subject matter that may be included within the scope of the term, under the broadest reasonable interpretation as understood by the artisan at the time of invention.

The declaration also refers to the instant disclosure, at page 15, which relates registering the name and address of the monitored device in a mail server, "for example," which will send and receive electronic mail for the network to which the mail server is connected. The claims that we reject as anticipated by Kraslavsky, however, say nothing about a mail server, nor about using a mail server.

Appeal No. 2002-0867
Application No. 08/738,659

Our evaluation of the declaration does not convince us that the broadest reasonable interpretation of "electronic mail" requires an interpretation that excludes the electronic communications described by Kraslavsky. While the expert's declaration provides evidence entitled to our careful consideration, the declaration does not attempt to harmonize -- nor does it even address -- the evidence that supports a more expansive definition for the term; e.g., the technical dictionary definitions we have previously noted.

Naugle

U.S. Patent 5,715,393 ("Naugle,") filed Jun. 21, 1995, issued Feb. 3, 1998, has been cited as a reference by appellant during prosecution of the instant application. (See Paper No. 39; filed May 23, 2001.) We will not take the filing of the IDS as an un rebuttable admission that Naugle is prior art with respect to appellant. However, in the event of further prosecution, appellant should clarify the status of Naugle with respect to this application.

Moreover, although Naugle is not a reference under 35 U.S.C. § 102, we note that the patent is a continuation-in-part of an application filed August 16, 1993, prior to appellant's claimed priority date of June 5, 1995. The earlier-filed application (106,733), according to USPTO records, was abandoned as part of a file-wrapper-continuation of the application that matured into the Naugle patent.

Appeal No. 2002-0867
Application No. 08/738,659

For reasons set forth in In re Wertheim, 646 F.2d 527, 531-39, 209 USPQ 554, 559-66 (CCPA 1981), when a patent disclosure relies on one or more continuation-in-part applications in a chain of priority under 35 U.S.C. § 120, there must be a determination with respect to what effect the presentation of new matter has in the patent's chain of priority -- whether the patent disclosure represents "secret prior art" as to the application at issue, and thus whether or not effective as a reference.

If...[the USPTO] wishes to utilize against an applicant a part of that patent disclosure found in an application filed earlier than the date of the application which became the patent, it must demonstrate that the earlier-filed application contains §§ 120/112 support for the invention claimed in the reference patent.

Wertheim, 646 F.2d at 537, 209 USPQ at 564.

The determinative question is whether the invention claimed in Naugle finds a supporting disclosure, in the earlier-filed application in question, in compliance with section 112, as required by section 120, so as to entitle that invention as "prior art" to the filing date of the patent's earlier-filed application. See id. The only date a patent has under section 102(e)(2) is the filing date of the application on which the patent issued. "Any earlier U.S. filing date for the patent necessarily depends on further compliance with §§ 120 and 112." Wertheim, 646 F.2d at 538, 209 USPQ at 565.

Naugle, if considered a reference, would appear to be material to patentability of instant claims 10, 16, 36, 42, 74, 78, 82, and 86. For that reason, if the examiner has not done so, the examiner should inspect the file wrapper of the Naugle patent and

determine if the earlier-filed application contains §§ 120/112 support for the invention claimed in the patent.⁵

The Naugle patent describes a method for communicating between a monitored device and a monitoring device, comprising the steps set forth by instant (representative) claim 10.

Naugle describes, at column 2 of the reference, computers connected in a network 37 (Fig. 1) using TCP/IP network protocol. At a predetermined time monitor computer 11 sends a network verify command to a target computer 12 (Fig. 2). Next, a test of the email capability of the target computer is performed to ensure that email service in the target computer is operational. Col. 3, ll. 7-10. Naugle describes using the "Sendmail" software package, which is standard in the "Unix-like" operating systems of the respective computers. Id. at ll. 21-30.

Naugle further describes that, after the monitoring device (monitor computer 11) receives an email reply message from the monitored device (target computer 12), the monitor computer determines information to be sent via an email message to the target computer. The monitor computer sends a message requesting status information (col. 4, ll. 9-35), and the target computer transmits to the monitor computer a message containing the requested status information (col. 5, ll. 22-26). Status of the target

⁵ If rejection over Naugle is indicated, to make a prima facie case for unpatentability -- without relying on an admission by appellant that Naugle is prior art -- any statement of rejection must include findings with respect to how the earlier-filed application contains §§ 120/112 support for the invention claimed in Naugle.

Appeal No. 2002-0867
Application No. 08/738,659

computer may be determined using sensors within the target -- e.g., sensors determining disk space availability in the target (entries in table bridging cols. 3, 4 and 4, 5, and text at col. 5, ll. 35-42).

CONCLUSION

We have sustained the rejection of claims 10, 16, 36, 42, 74, 78, 82, and 86 under 35 U.S.C. § 103, but have not sustained the rejection of claims 12-15, 17-19, 38-41, 43, 44, 52-61, 68-73, 75-77, 79-81, 83-85, and 87. The examiner's decision in rejecting claims 10, 12-19, 36, 38-44, 52-61, and 68-87 is thus affirmed-in-part.

Claims 10, 16, 36, 42, 74, 78, 82, and 86 are newly rejected by us under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

This decision contains a new ground of rejection pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.196(b). 37 CFR § 1.196(b) provides that, "A new ground of rejection shall not be considered final for purposes of judicial review."

37 CFR § 1.196(b) also provides that the appellant, **WITHIN TWO MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF THE DECISION**, must exercise one of the following two options with respect to the new ground of rejection to avoid termination of proceedings (§ 1.197(c)) as to the rejected claim:

(1) Submit an appropriate amendment of the claim so rejected or a showing of facts relating to the claim so rejected, or both, and have the matter reconsidered by the examiner, in which event the application will be remanded to the examiner

Appeal No. 2002-0867
Application No. 08/738,659

....
(2) Request that the application be reheard under § 1.197(b) by the Board of
Patent Appeals and Interferences upon the same record.

Appeal No. 2002-0867
Application No. 08/738,659

No time period for taking any subsequent action in connection with this appeal may be extended under 37 CFR § 1.136(a).

AFFIRMED-IN-PART -- 37 CFR 1.196(b)

Lee E. Barrett
LEE E. BARRETT
Administrative Patent Judge


STUART S. LEVY
Administrative Patent Judge

Howard B. Blankenship
HOWARD B. BLANKENSHIP
Administrative Patent Judge

BOARD OF PATENT
APPEALS
AND
INTERFERENCES

Appeal No. 2002-0867
Application No. 08/738,659

OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.
1940 DUKE STREET
ALEXANDRIA , VA 22314